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COMMITTEE ON THE PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE

VERBATIM RECORD OF THE THREE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-THIRD MEETING

Held at Graz, Austria,
on Wednesday, 5 June 1991, at 10.30 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. HOHENFELLNER (Austria)

- Spin-off benefits of space technology: review of current status (continued)

- Other matters

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The meeting was called to order at 10.50 a.m.

SPIN-OFF BENEFITS OF SPACE TECHNOLOGY: REVIEW OF CURRENT STATUS (continued)

Mr. BONEV (Bulgaria) (interpretation from Russian): There are four practical benefits of space technology to the economy of States. Two of these are well known: remote sensing of the Earth from space and the use of specialized satellites, such as those devoted to communications, meteorology, navigation, rescue operations and so on. The third is manufacturing in space and the fourth is making use of space-related activities on Earth; these two have not yet been fully covered in the literature.

Here are some timely questions: What are we gaining from space technology? What is the interaction between space and terrestrial technologies? There is a dynamic, two-stage process at play here. We have at our disposal a large body of knowledge on subjects related to space; this is supplemented by a body of knowledge and technology generated by space-related activities themselves. That knowledge can be applied to non-space-related science and technology. This feedback process began in the 1960s and is now very significant.

We have been using space-related achievements in our economies, which can yield significant scientific and technological progress. To achieve this, there must be a State programme to apply space-related achievements in the economy; a State body must be established to coordinate the programme nationwide. The experience of leading space-faring States and their outer space agencies is illustrative in this regard.

(Mr. Bonev, Bulgaria)

The process is all the more important as space programmes are inadequately subsidized, making it vital to find additional funding. On the other hand, annual spending on mankind's space programmes is estimated at $500 billion - a considerable sum - and it is understandable that we should be interested in at least partial compensation for our expenditures in this area.

For that and other reasons, there has been new interaction between the space and non-space sectors: spin-off. We can elucidate that term by speaking of the donor role of space activities. In any event, I believe these benefits should be called "derivative", not "spin-off" benefits, as they have by now acquired their own distinctive nature.

In the narrow sense, this means extracting material benefits from the use of space-related achievements. We see this in practically all areas of industry, transportation, agriculture, forestry, medicine and other fields.

Here, all manner of interesting issues arise that can be subjects for discussion. One impressive example, in the energy industry, is the possibility of removing from Earth radioactive wastes from nuclear power plants. There are, of course, many problems to be solved in that connection, but the use of space technology for the guaranteed removal of radioactive wastes holds out some hope to mankind.

Bulgaria has participated in a number of programmes related to manned and unmanned space objects, including those connected with the orbital station Mir. We have developed new space systems and technologies; jointly with our partners we have access to high-level technology that could be used successfully to protect the environment - not merely to monitor the environment, but even to cleanse it. That technology can also be used

(Mr. Bonev, Bulgaria)

innovatively in medicine, fire-fighting, refrigeration, textiles, and so forth. We are ready to cooperate with other countries to accelerate the implementation of these technologies.

Most useful in that connection is the experience of States and agencies that have already made great progress in spin-off benefits. We consider that the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space can be of great help here. As we approach International Space Year, we consider that the inclusion of these matters on the Committee's agenda was both justified and timely. It has been a mere 30 years since we first glimpsed the Earth from outer space, and mankind will seek to draw up a balance sheet of space activities during International Space Year. In addition to the main issues, the question of spin-off benefits will be of special significance in that regard.

We think it would be most useful in the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee, alongside the brilliant papers on remote sensing and other priority issues, to include the question of space technology and its applications on Earth. This would address real-life needs and would help the international community in its examination of space activities in the context of "Mission to Planet Earth".

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): Over the past several years the United States has made presentations to this Committee on the secondary benefits which have resulted from our national space research programmes. Those secondary applications and uses have had a significant economic impact, both nationally and internationally, through the development of new and improved commercial products and processes.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

My delegation will be providing to the Secretariat at Headquarters in New York multiple copies of the most recent publication of our National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) on spin-offs. We would suggest that delegations interested in obtaining a copy have their Missions contact the Outer Space Affairs Division.

For today I should like to touch briefly on some of the information contained in our annual spin-offs publication.

NASA is developing a wide range of new cutting-edge technologies such as artificial intelligence, advanced robotics, artificial self-sustaining ecological systems, virtual-reality simulators and ultra-high-strength and high-temperature-resistant materials. Many of those technologies have spin-off applications.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

For example, in the area of medicine and health sciences, vision research conducted by NASA for astronaut training has led to the development of a commercial optical electronic system which can be used to teach patients how to contract and relax the focusing muscle of the eye. Such training could eliminate the need for corrective lenses or surgery for patients who are nearsighted or farsighted. Another example is the dry-heat sterilization system developed by NASA to decontaminate the Viking spacecraft. The technique is now used for the sterilization of medical instruments, reducing sterilization time to one tenth the time required by traditional methods.

Spin-off technologies have also found a place in environmental applications, particularly in the educational context. One such spin-off is a unique software program called GemPak, which enables meteorology students to study weather patterns and prepare forecasts based on collected weather data. The GemPak software allows students to view multiple perspectives of the complex three-dimensional atmospheric structure. Another example is NASA's work on controlled ecological life-support systems (CELSS). In addition to the potential space-based applications for CELSS, researchers have also developed environmentally controlled chambers which enhance the growth of agricultural products without soil.

Spin-off benefits in the industrial and manufacturing sectors have also been realized. One notable example is in the area of steel production. Based on research investigating spacecraft re-entry, a commercial plasma torch for steel-plant applications has been developed. The new torch may be the key to making steel production cheaper, cleaner and faster. Another example is a recently developed NASA process for coating and chemically bonding a thin film

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

of diamond-like carbon to various surfaces. This patented technique has been licensed to a commercial firm for application to a host of consumer and industrial products including camera lenses, ball bearings, watch crystals and metal-cutting tools.

Spin-off applications of NASA research have even been realized in the music industry. Using a wide range of aerospace techniques and materials, including acoustic research, high-strength bonding materials and aircraft tooling equipment, a commercial manufacturer has produced an acoustic harp which can be played merely by passing the hand through an electromagnetic signal.

It has been our experience that realizing the spin-off benefits of space technology does not occur automatically. At NASA the transfer and application of space technology is accomplished through the Technology Utilization Program, which is designed to alert industrial users to new NASA scientific and technological advances and to provide an effective means for the transfer and adaptation of such advances for users in both the private and the public sectors of the economy.

Towards that end, NASA sponsors 16 Centers for the Commercial Development of Space with participation from the private sector, the academic community and the public sector. These centres act as focal points for the transfer of technology and ideas. A second important vehicle for stimulating space spin-offs is NASA's participation in the Small Business Innovative Research Program. The objective of that programme is to strengthen the role of small businesses in federal research and development programmes while promoting the dissemination of technological advances through the exchange of information.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

In addition, NASA's patent-licensing programme actively promotes the application and use of aerospace technologies for which NASA patents have been filed. Since most NASA-developed technologies usually require further development and marketing to bring an invention to the commercial marketplace, some degree of exclusivity is granted with NASA licenses. A number of NASA-owned patents are available for foreign licensing to firms located outside the United States.

A final mechanism used to enhance technology transfer is the NASA publication NASA Tech Briefs. That monthly magazine announces new NASA-developed technologies and concepts considered to have broad potential commerical use. Until recently NASA Tech Briefs was not available outside the United States. That is no longer the case. I am pleased to note that this past January an international edition of NASA Tech Briefs was produced and is now in circulation. We are confident that this step will enhance international access to newly developed spin-off technologies.

On a final note, my delegation wishes to express its satisfaction with the study prepared by the Secretariat on spin-off benefits of space technology. In our view it presents a very clear account of the spin-off applications of space technology and of the process for transfering technology to the public and private sectors.

Mr. DAO VONG DUC (Viet Nam): Let me first express the deep gratitude of the delegation of Viet Nam to the organizing committee and especially to the authorities of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) for having made it possible for us to come to the wonderful city of Graz to

(Mr. Dao Vong Duc, Viet Nam)

participate in the thirty-fourth session of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. This is the fourth time my colleague and I have taken part in such a session, and we are most impressed.

I should like to take this opportunity to present an outline of space and remote sensing activities in Viet Nam. Frankly, remote sensing is a newly introduced technology in Viet Nam, and its applications are still in their infancy. Nevertheless, aware of its immense potential, our Government agencies have recently intensified space and remote sensing activities, placing them in recent years among Viet Nam's priority development programmes.

As a developing country, Viet Nam considers the use of remote sensing techniques for surveying natural resources and environmental conditions for developing the national economy as the main object of our programme of space research and applications. In our country remote sensing plays an important role in planning various agricultural activities by providing adequate information on major land-use patterns, soil-water resources, forest inventory, flooding, vegetation, coastal changes, erosion, accretion and so forth.

The area of Viet Nam is about 330,000 square kilometres located in the monsoon region, with rather complicated land forms and geological conditions. Viet Nam has a population of some 65 million in an agriculture-based economy recovering from many years of deterioration. Therefore there is an urgent need for precision data to identify and enumerate our natural resources in the areas of forestry, agriculture and aquaculture for the purposes of environmental protection and resource planning and development. Thus the

(Mr. Dao Vong Duc, Viet Nam)

utilization of the latest remote sensing technology to shorten research time and upgrade the efficiency of data collection has a great significance in geological mapping as well as in weather and tropical storm forecasting.

In 1980 the National Committee for Space Research and Applications was founded with representatives from various branches of science and technology. It has been assigned the task of defining the direction of programmes to apply the results of space research and remote sensing to development of the national economy and of coordinating remote sensing activities throughout the country.

With the implementation of the UNDP-FAO project on the utilization of remote sensing data for the assessment of agricultural resources, some equipment has been supplied for photo interpretation and image processing. Facilities for visual interpretation techniques and a centre for automatic digital interpretation techniques have also been set up. Some ground stations have been installed to receive cloud pictures from meteorologcal satellites such as GMS-3 and NOAA. Attempts are now being made to study the dynamics of cyclones, their formation, structure and movement.

(Mr. Dao Vong Duc, Viet Nam)

Under the sponsorship of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) Regional Remote Sensing Programme, a pilot project on the analysis of remote sensing data for the assessment of natural conditions and natural resources has recently been implemented. Its objective is to study the coastal dynamics of rivers, including erosion, accretion and biological evolution, using new LANDSAT and SPOT data.

In forestry, remote sensing techniques have been appliced to the compilation of vegetation maps. Attempts are being made to use digital image-processing techniques for monitoring the changes in forest land.

In recent years a programme has been carried out to study physical phenomena of the atmosphere with the help of ground installations. Efforts are also concentrated on exploiting the possibilities of telecommunication satellies to improve radiocommunications with other countries.

In conclusion, I would say that in space remote sensing activities we have achieved some modest preliminary results. This encouraging factor is closely related to international and regional cooperation, thanks to which we have had the advantage of training scientific and technical staff and the opportunity to send many specialists to famous laboratories abroad annually for long-term training as well as for short periods to attend international meetings and to exchange experiences.

In short, we can say, with great appreciation, that Viet Nam has greatly benefited from participation in international cooperation, and we will do our best to strengthen it.

Mr. OWOSENI (Nigeria): Having made some general remarks on the spin-off benefits of space technology in its earlier statement in the general exchange of views, the Nigerian delegation wishes to comment specifically on

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

the study by the Secretariat of the Outer Space Affairs Division on "Spin-off benefits of space technology," in document A/AC.105/486 of 30 April 1991. We all recall that that study is the result of a recommendation by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at its thirty-third session in 1990. We therefore commend the speed and diligence with which the Secretariat carried out this important task.

This is the third year since 1989 that this agenda item has been considered in the Committee. Although a relatively new item on the agenda, the question of the spin-off benefits of space technology is for us the single most important linkage on space matters between the vast majority of mankind that has no direct access to space science and the few that do. Thus, the study has a particular significance to many of us from developing countries whose very survival and development are intrinsically woven around the applications of modern science and technology in various socio-economic spheres. In this regard we welcome the conscious direction of the study, as stated in paragraph 4 of the prefatory section entitled "Background," that it is intended

> "to provide Member States with a review of the spin-off process and examples of actual and potential spin-off technologies, applications and benefits"

and

> "as a basis for considering what the international community might do to promote access by all countries to the potential spin-off benefits of space technology." (A/AC.105/486, p. 3)

Turning to the main aspects of the study, my delegation notes the various aspects of spin-offs, starting from its definition, process and study and extending to numerous examples of spin-off applications in medical monitoring

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

and diagnosis, medical treatment, public and environmental safety, development of new technologies in different fields, industrial and data processing and energy and agriculture. We are particularly drawn to several areas of spin-off benefits covered by the study in pargraphs 29 to 93, including the Low Intensity X-ray Imaging Scope - Lixiscope - for emergency medical diagnosis, the use of lasers and fibre optics for treating obstructed coronary arteries without surgery, new protective coatings for structures and experimental solar systems for domestic power utilities, to mention but a few.

An appraisal of those examples of space technology spin-offs, however, reveals two main characteristics. First, as new technologies adapted for commercialization, they are invariably very costly and thus outside the reach of poor peoples and countries. Secondly, since the spin-offs result from technologies that are mainly considered sensitive, the development and stimulation of the benefits are virtually internally oriented in the technologically developed societies originating them or are patented exclusively to regulated domestic industries for commercialization. An examination of the various applications in section III, paragraph 94 to 111 of the study, reveals that while tangible steps have been taken by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the European Space Agency (ESA) and other national programmes in the USSR, Japan, France and India to encourage the transfer of space technology through spin-offs to other sectors of the economy, it would appear that international cooperation in this regard has been lacking, since the study contains no mention of any conscious efforts to transfer some of the technologies for spin-off benefits, especially to the developing countries.

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

Hence, we find appropriate the conclusion of the study, which states, inter alia, that spin-off applications in various fields will quickly spread to other countries through trade, education, technical assistance or other forms of technology transfer, that international efforts to enable more countries to gain more benefits from the spin-off applications should be focused on improving the exchange of information relating to actual and potential spin-off technologies, applications and benefits and that the Committee could play a useful role in promoting by various means the enhancement of spin-off benefits to other nations.

People in the street - and not only in the developing countries but in technologically advanced societies as well - often ask what is gained by spending billions of dollars on outer space exploration when there are crying calls for solutions to pressing earthly problems. In our view, the answer lies in closely linking space science and technology and the exploration and utilization of outer space with the welfare and material betterment of our human societies and global environment. Spin-off benefits thus constitute some of the key linkages in this regard.

In addition to the conclusion reached by the study in A/AC.105/486, my delegation would propose the following measures as a means of fostering the much-needed international cooperation in the redistribution of spin-offs and transfer of related technologies to the disadvantaged developing countries.

First, there is the establishment of joint partnerships, commercial ventures or shared patent rights between the industrial conglomerates operating in space nations and companies in the developing countries in the production and marketing of simple, practical technologies specifically tailored to developing societies and modeled on the original spin-off technologies. This would reduce the over-all costs and simplify their local

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

applications. For example, this type of technological adaptation has led to the production and extensive marketing in Nigeria of simple, portable domestic gas cookers, which produce virtually the same cooking functions as the heavy ones used in homes, but at about one tenth the cost of the latter and thus within easy reach of millions of our people. The adaptation to local conditions and commercialization of such spin-offs are indeed possible through the multinational corporations operating in virtually all the developing nations.

Secondly, there should be a regular organization by the technologically advanced countries of trade fairs in spin-off technologies in the developing countries to elicit the latter's interest as well as to publicize the benefits of space technology that have so far been largely unknown.

Thirdly, there should be a conscious dissemination to the public and educational institutions, through films, literature, seminars and so on, of the spin-off benefits of space technology and their application in various spheres of human development.

(Mr. Owoseni, Nigeria)

For example, the Apollo moon landing by American astronauts was shown in films throughout Nigerian educational institutions in 1970, kindling or sparking the interest of my own generation of Nigerians in space matters. We believe that the same could be done for spin-off benefits of space technologies.

Fourthly, the space Powers should develop the awareness and interest of the technologically disadvantaged societies and countries in spin-off benefits by donating unaffordable, but valuable, equipment and materials - such as the wheelchairs and X-ray and diagnostic appliances mentioned in the study - to public hospitals and medical centres, research institutions, colleges of technology and other public centres where the physical examples and advantages of spin-off technologies from space exploration would convey a more vivid and lasting impression and awareness than could otherwise be attained.

Mr. MENICOCCI (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): The growing importance of the exploration and utilization of outer space places upon us the obligation to ensure that the spin-off benefits of space science and technology are within reach of all countries as well as an obligation to enable the developing countries to achieve the essential conditions necessary to go beyond being mere consumers of space services and products.

It is clear that man's activity in outer space has provided benefits in direct proportion to the investments made by the main space operators, and it is also clear that the implementation of national or regional space programmes has resulted in decisions that have established priorities over other activities and requirements of the country or region whatever the cost, even to the sacrifice of human lives.

It is also clear that the benefits derived from space activities are not all equally available to all members of the international community. We must

(Mr. Menicocci, Argentina)

therefore discuss how we can promote, facilitate and implement the process of participation.

Our delegation believes that a process of participation inevitably entails a transfer of technology at some level, without going into aspects related to design, development or production methods. The mere use of those technologies cannot be contemplated in isolation, but is an inherent part of a complex and multifaceted context.

The complexity is due not only to the political and socio-economic implications involved in any technology transfer - the emergence of a possible competitor, for example - but to the fact that space technology is advanced technology. In the transfer process we note that there is a tendency among the recipients to aspire to state-of-the-art technology, which creates a considerable complication, since the absorption of sophisticated technology presupposes a basic investment in education, research and development.

On the other hand, for the possessors of technology - even where there is an expressed will to transfer, possibly because of the need to create new consumers and new markets - the lack of a reliable regime to protect intellectual property and the difficulty of verifying the end use of the technology being transferred discourage initiatives or result in the adoption of control measures that, far from tackling the basic problem, namely, potential misuse, merely have unintended discriminatory effects, such as a self-imposed withdrawal to the sidelines of the whole process with a concomitant loss of opportunity to transfer experiences as well.

International depolarization, which has been a much-sought common goal in recent years, today requires daring and imaginative initiatives that can contribute to the process of détente. However, we must attempt to arrive at a

(Mr. Menicocci, Argentina)

realistic position from which, while keeping our feet firmly planted on the ground, we can aspire in our minds to the stars.

Our delegation believes that that position could include explicitly structured norms that, rather than restricting the rights of some countries to produce what they have developed and obtain returns on their investments or prevent others from having access to technology by applying any kind of discriminatory criteria, would provide a recognized, accepted and applicable structure that would establish compatibilities between convergent interests and common objectives and allow for case-by-case treatment.

As we said in this forum last year,

"the greatest challenge we are facing, and at the same time the greatest contribution we can make to seeing to it that this process of change will be, instead, a harmonious transition, is for us to accept the task of building a new foundation, of coming up with a new way of thinking." (348th meeting, p. 18-20)

In order to do that, we must seek mechanisms that will enable us to channel the spin-off benefits of space technology, including interaction, coordination and our ability to come together to establish the kind of relationship between countries and organizations, both public and private, and even between individuals that will enable us to bring together access to technology, financial systems, training schemes and implementation mechanisms - all aimed at producing concrete solutions to problems.

The overall criteria that should prevail in this new approach is the development of norms that will lead to the creation of an international space technology market to which we can all have access under equitable conditions.

Mr. MANDESCU (Romania) (interpretation from French): The Romanian delegation considers agenda item 10 to be a very important one, particularly for small and medium-sized countries that have no space research programmes of their own. We should therefore like to thank the United Nations Secretariat for the study in document A/AC.105/486, "Spin-off benefits of space technology", which was requested by the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space at last year's session. We believe that it will remain the focal point for all kinds of future analyses of this question.

The study informs us that national or regional space agencies are making efforts to encourage the transfer and dissemination of spin-off technologies developed within the framework of space programmes to other sectors of the economy.

(Mr. Mandescu, Romania)

In coming years, several outer space laboratories are planned, and these will broaden the secondary applications of space research. It is therefore important that the Committee find a practical way to promote international collaboration and cooperation in this area, including legal instruments that will be favourable to all States. The participation of States in such a process will, of course, be very complex, for it will involve both producer and consumer countries - that is, States and private companies.

In conclusion, we suggest that the United Nations and its specialized agencies examine the possibility of organizing seminars to discuss this specific issue. We believe that the United Nations Secretariat could complete the remarkable study begun in document A/AC.105/486 by providing detailed specific information on organizations and private companies that possess space research facilities and access mechanisms.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call upon the representative of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations.

Mr. KALENSKY (Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)): As I mentioned earlier when presenting the general statement of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the spin-off benefits of space technologies are increasingly being utilized by FAO in agriculture, forestry and fisheries.

The most important example of spin-off benefits of space technologies in FAO activities is the upgrading of the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System on Food Security through the use of data from the environmental satellites. These satellites were designed for weather forecasting. About 10 years ago FAO started to experiment with the use of data from these so-called weather satellites for assessment of the risk of agricultural drought. Since

(Mr. Kalensky, FAO)

August 1988 the FAO Remote Sensing Centre has been producing operational reports on environmental conditions relevant to agricultural drought in Africa. The reports are prepared from the environmental-satellite data at 10-day and monthly intervals. Their main users are the FAO Global Information and Early Warning System and the food security systems of the International Group against Drought and Desertification (IGADD) and the Southern African Development Co-ordination Conference (SADCC) in eastern and southern Africa, respectively.

Another example of the spin-off benefits of space technologies to FAO activities is the possibility for continuous monitoring of precipitation and vegetation conditions in the Sahel based on analysis of environmental-satellite data, with the objective of early identification of optimal conditions for outbreaks of desert locusts. This is done in close cooperation with the ground-based desert-locust-control operations, which obtain timely information about the development of new, high-risk habitats.

Data from environmental satellites combined with data from earth resources satellites are used by FAO for global assessment and monitoring of tropical forest cover within the framework of the multilateral Tropical Forest Action Plan. This project, whose objective is to stop the devastation of tropical forests and facilitate their sustainable management, could not have been implemented within the lifespan of this generation without the application of space technologies. The importance and urgency of the task is documented by the recent history of forest loss in the Middle Juba District of southern Somalia. In 1960, the extent of forest cover was 5,000 hectares; by 1984 it had declined to 2,000 hectares; and by 1986 there was only 400 hectares of forest cover left.

(Mr. Kalensky, FAO)

The spin-off benefits of space technologies are particularly well reflected in the use of satellite remote sensing and satellite global positioning systems in the thematic mapping of natural resources. Following the endorsement of last year's Inter-Agency Meeting on Outer Space Activities, FAO prepared a project document for vegetation and land-use mapping of Africa based on multi-level and multi-date satellite remote sensing. I have several copies of the project document with me. The maps will be at scales of 1:1 million for the whole of Africa and 1:200,000 or 1:250,000 for selected areas. Africa has so far benefited less than any other region from space technologies. Yet the appropriate application of these technologies can significantly speed up the completion of maps and inventories of natural resources and thereby provide the reliable baseline information urgently needed for the planning of the rational development of natural resources, their sustainable management and environmental protection.

There are many more examples to document the spin-off benefits of space technologies in FAO activities. These important activities either could not have been undertaken at all or their implementation could have taken much longer had space technologies not provided possibilities for fast data collection over large areas, capacities for the transmission and storage of high volumes of data, new digital image-analysis systems and so on. However, one of the most important spin-off benefits of space technologies is that for the first time in the history of mankind the Earth can be observed, monitored and analysed in its entirety. Global problems, such as food security in developing countries, economic underdevelopment and environmental protection, require global solutions. The space technologies offer powerful tools. To

(Mr. Kalensky, FAO)

make those tools available through pricing policies favourable to developing countries and to utilize them more vigorously than in the past for such peaceful, down-to-earth applications should now become one of the top priorities of the most-advanced industrial countries.

The CHAIRMAN: That concludes our consideration of agenda item 10.

The meeting was suspended at 11.40 a.m. and resumed at 11.50 a.m.

OTHER MATTERS

Ms. DAPUL (Philippines): My delegation would like to react to some remarks made yesterday during the course of the debate on the establishment of a legal framework for international cooperation.

Contrary to the perception that the motivation of those from the developing countries stems from the psychology of having been victims, we in the Philippines, as part of the developing world, regard cooperation and the sharing of resources and benefits as something to be desired - a common good. We believe this has historical and cultural roots. Before colonization occurred, many of our societies practised common land ownership and regarded nature, the land, the sea and the air as belonging to no one and to no particular group. The concept of private property was alien to our early ancestors. Access to the benefits of nature was a fact of life, and those underpinnings to our societies remain even today. We therefore do not have to apply great imagination in order to extend this concept to outer space.

Because we regard sharing and international cooperation as a desired goal of common good, we express this in the need to have the principle of international cooperation accepted in an appropriate legal framework.

My delegation finds it hard to comprehend why certain delegations cannot understand this legitimate concern. We particularly share the frustrations expressed yesterday by others from the developing world.

If, for the sake of argument, similar criteria were applied to the development of legal principles relating to other areas of the work of the United Nations, no progress would have been possible in the achievement of

(Ms. Dapul, Philippines)

perceived common good, say in the field of human rights. If the existence of local or national laws and treaties had been demanded as a criterion prior to the acknowledgement of the principle that torture and summary execution were not acceptable policies for dealing with political prisoners, the principle of the unacceptability of torture and summary execution would not have been enshrined as a principle in the existing Covenants governing civil and political rights.

To demand, therefore, of many impoverished developing countries to report on treaties and legal instruments governing activities in outer space is, to say the least, a little incredible. The analogy I can think of is demanding road maps comparable to those produced by the Automobile Association of America (AAA) in the truly remote, sparsely inhabited islands of the Philippines - where no roads exist.

The point we should like to underscore is that we cannot isolate what we are trying to achieve in this Committee from the overall work and purposes of the United Nations. As in the field of human rights, no force can forever impede the realization of the legitimate aspirations of peoples. We in the developing world see international cooperation as a dimension of the larger economic rights. To us, neither the United Nations nor this Committee exists to ensure the dominance of one State or group of States over another. History has shown that ideas of common good, no matter how strongly resisted, eventually prevail and endure.

Finally, let me add that it would be pure irony for my delegation to take seriously the controversy over the venue of meetings, whether in New York or in Geneva, and over the duration of such meetings when we perceive that the

(Ms. Dapul, Philippines)

matters impacting on the long-term survival of our nations are dealt with by certain delegations with less seriousness, less vigour and less enthusiasm than the tale of those two cities.

Mr. MURTHI (India): My delegation wishes to make a brief statement under the agenda item "Other matters" particularly covering various subjects such as International Space Year and the environment which are addressed in General Assembly resolution 45/72 in relation to the work of our Committee.

In that context we welcome paragraphs 19 and 20 of that resolution, which urge Member States and international organizations to consider supporting the efforts of the United Nations in connection with International Space Year, and call on Member States, in planning their activities for International Space Year, to consider ways in which those activities could complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development planned for 1992.

We are happy to note the various activities planned by the United Nations in the context of International Space Year. We should like to express our support for these and to convey our appreciation of the contributions from various Member States. It is encouraging to note that the wide range of activities and programmes planned for International Space Year by various countries as well as international bodies provide opportunities for information exchange and participation for a number of countries. We recall the importance attached by the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee to including all countries in these programmes and to planning activities that would continue beyond 1992.

(Mr. Murthi, India)

In India a number of activities are planned to promote greater awareness and participation among national users of space technology. In addition, through participation in various international bodies such as the Space Agency Forum on International Space Year (SAFISY), the International Astronautics Federation (IAF) and the Committee on Space Research (COSPAR), India has been contributing to various activities by sharing its experience and expertise, particularly that relevant in the context of developing countries.

In the context of International Space Year, India's space programme will endeavour to provide an increased number of opportunities for training for personnel from other developing countries through its sharing-of-experience programme, which will include assistance for free training and subsistence allowances for participants.

Considering the emerging focus on environmental studies involving the use of space technology, and taking into account the needs of global programmes such as the International Geosphere-Biosphere Programme (IGBP), the Indian Space Research Organization has made a proposal for undertaking an international cooperative mission called "Protection of the environment for assuring a cleaner Earth" (PEACE) through a series of polar orbiting satellites. That mission concept, which aims to promote cooperative participation and complementary efforts by various space agencies, also aims to provide for greater participation by developing countries in the endeavour to monitor the global environment through space systems. We have informed the Committee about this proposal on earlier occasions, and we hope the Committee will take appropriate note of it in its report and encourage interested member States to consider participating in such cooperative activities.

(Mr. Murthi, India)

We also note with appreciation that in response to the recommendations of the Scientific and Technical Subcommittee a presentation from the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development was arranged during the current session, on preparations for the Conference. We stress the importance of the Committee secretariat continuing to inform the secretariat of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development on matters related to the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space that are also of relevance to the Conference. That information could also include activities planned by member States in the context of International Space Year that would complement the efforts under way for the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development.

Finally, recalling that paragraph 29 of General Assembly resolution 45/72 requests our Committee to consider, as appropriate, new projects in outer space activities, it would be fitting for our Committee to respond suitably to that call. The Committee could remind its members to consider what forms that response could take.

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): I should like to make a few brief comments under the agenda item "Other matters" with regard to the question of the venue of future sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

This matter has been with us for several sessions, and there are clearly differences of opinion. We have been open to those differences; unfortunately, others have not shown a willingness to be flexible or to take the matter seriously, as demonstrated by one rather lengthy intervention on Monday. I do not wish to engage in a debate on all portions of that statement, but I want to set the record straight. The quotations attributed to Mr. Herbert Reis, who was representing the United States at the time the General Assembly first considered this question, were taken out of historical context. My delegation objects to the manipulation of his remarks for self-serving purposes.

In any case, we want to respond to those who take the work of the Committee seriously and who have made good-faith efforts to address the concerns expressed on this issue by the General Assembly.

My delegation fully supports the General Assembly principle that United Nations bodies should plan to meet at their respective established headquarters. We recognize that in the case of the Legal Subcommittee an exception to that general rule has been granted, allowing for alternate sessions to be held in Geneva. However, General Assembly resolution 44/201 B, Section III, requested the Committee to reexamine this practice bearing in mind the conclusion of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) that there is no compelling reason to continue the arrangement. In arriving at that conclusion the ACABQ noted that the holding of the Subcommittee's meetings in Geneva entails additional non-conference-servicing costs.

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

But we also recognize, as I said before, that there is a wide divergence of views in this Committee on the desire to continue the rotation system. Bearing this in mind, my delegation would like to try to meet others half way so that we might come to some agreement at this session. What I would like to do is make a proposal, which could perhaps be reflected in the final report of the Committee. I propose that the Committee agree to defer making a final decision on the present practice of holding alternate sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva until its thirty-sixth session, to be held in 1993, when it can evaluate more fully the impact this practice has on the Committee's operations. In the meantime, and without prejudice to that final decision, the Committee would agree to hold the next session of the Subcommittee in Geneva and further agree that the Secretariat should support that session without incurring additional non-conference-servicing costs. Of course, we would then ask the Secretariat to inform the relevant United Nations committees of those decisions.

I offer that as a possible compromise on the issue concerning holding sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva, and I would welcome any further ideas or reactions.

Mr. BOYER (France) (interpretation from French): The Committee knows by heart the position of the French delegation on the matter of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee's meetings. My delegation always listens carefully to the reasoning behind arguments put forward by other delegations, often close to my delegation, in favour of positions that differ from those of the French delegation. There is an argument used by the representative of Australia and taken up by the representative of Japan to which I should like to return.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

I said yesterday that I did not like that argument, and my dislike is even more intense today, because it amounts to saying that meetings should be held in New York because this is convenient for some delegations. That argument sounds at best like what the Americans call benign neglect and at worst what the French call arrogance, and ignores the interests of every delegation. I shall merely recall that the proponents of alternate sessions take the interests of delegations into account; sacrifices would be made by all sides.

Here is an example of the kind of inconveniences holding meetings in New York entails for France: Only one member of our delegation is based in New York. The Head of delegation and the four other members are based in Paris, which means a savings of five aeroplane tickets versus one.

I hope those delegations will drop that argument; as a European and as Head of the French delegation I find it invalid.

Turning to the statement by the representative of the United States, to which I listened with great interest, I think his proposal could serve as a good basis for next year's session, with a change in its provision regarding the Secretariat. The French delegation cannot make a return to Geneva conditional. Of course, we think it desirable for the Secretariat to make every possible effort to prevent a Geneva session from entailing additional costs. With that reservation, my delegation agrees with the solution offered by the representative of the United States.

(Mr. Boyer, France)

I wish now briefly to address our working methods. I note that for some time this subject has been less contentious. We refrained from commenting on this matter when the atmosphere was less than satisfactory, but with the current return to calm, we can consider the question. During my brief tenure as Head of the French delegation, I have noted that significant progress has been achieved, particularly in the work of the Legal Subcommittee thanks to the work of its Chairman, Mr. Vaclav Mikulka, especially with respect to the organization of its working meetings and the better use of conference services. I have noticed too that this year in Graz our meetings have been starting earlier; that in itself is an achievement worth noting.

With respect to the work of the Legal Subcommittee - not its duration but its timing - my delegation notes that it is a pity that it coincides with the Easter season. I am told that this will not be the case next year, and my delegation hopes earnestly that the Secretariat will ensure that the Legal Subcommittee's work will no longer coincide with the Easter season and that the days thus saved will be deducted from the total duration.

On the question of a possible review of the length of the Legal Subcommittee's sessions, the French delegation believes that there is no reason to discuss this at present but that we should not exclude the possibility of discussing it some day, on the fundamental condition that if we were to shorten the session slightly - and my delegation does not believe this will happen in the near future - this should be done on the strict basis of equality among agenda items. In other words, no item would take precedence over others: a principle I think should underlie all our thinking on any possible reform or improvement of the work of our Committee, since such

(Mr. Boyer, France)

equality reflects the equality of the sovereign States members of the Committee. The principle of the equality of States demands that their wishes, as reflected in the work of the Subcommittee, always be scrupulously respected.

Mr. DUMITRIU (Romania): I am fully aware of the time constraints our Committee must observe, and I shall therefore be very brief.

As the views expressed here on the practice of holding alternate sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva are still divergent, I should like to say that my delegation is in favour of continuing that practice, based on a long-standing consensus agreement. We have to bear in mind that for many countries members of the Committee Geneva is a more convenient place to send their experts, and that our meetings in Geneva have often led to fruitful results.

Certainly the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions (ACABQ) have some grounds, but I hope we can agree on one fact: the activities of our Committee are as important as those of other United Nations bodies and deserve the necessary assistance. I warmly thank other delegations sharing similar views on this subject.

As for the proposal of the United States delegation, we shall give it the most careful consideration; it appears to be a reasonable way towards a solution of this question.

Mr. TETU (Canada) (interpretation from French): My delegation has no objection to the system of rotating the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee between Geneva and New York. It seems to promote greater participation by some States in the Subcommittee's deliberations, and certainly, the "spirit of Geneva" - which was evoked earlier - seems to favour more intense

(Mr. Têtu, Canada)

concentration on the items before the Legal Subcommittee. Having said that, I would observe that the United States proposal sounds very reasonable. It would permit us, we hope, to make a final decision in 1993 after further study, and hence I would support it.

Mr. NOREEN (Sweden): Let me make a few comments on the question of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee. I think we would all agree that the present arrangement for the venue of the meetings of the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its two Subcommittees clearly favours New York. The Committee and its two Subcommittees have three sessions per year; that means six sessions over a two-year period. Five of those six sessions are held in New York - when, of course, we do not have the pleasure of being in the beautiful City of Graz.

That balance seems to my delegation to a large degree to have taken into account the cost-effectiveness argument that no doubt can be advanced in favour of New York. My delegation fully recognizes that, while at the same time maintaining that the present arrangement permits us to retain a European leg in Geneva for political and symbolic reasons.

I think the present arrangement is the most balanced solution, taking into account the differences of opinion that exist on this question and the economic and political arguments that can no doubt be advanced in favour of both New York and Geneva.

Having said that, my delegation very much welcomes the compromise proposal put forward today by the representative of the United States suggesting that we defer a final decision on the question of the venue of the Legal Subcommittee until the thirty-sixth session, in 1993, while at the same time agreeing to hold the next session of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva.

(Mr. Noreen, Sweden)

When it comes to the part of the compromise proposal that deals with the costs that would be incurred by having the Legal Subcommittee session in Geneva, it would perhaps be of some interest to the Committee and of some value to my delegation to hear the views of the Secretary on the question of what additional costs would be incurred by having a session in Geneva. As I understood the United States proposal, the suggestion was that no extra costs should be incurred by the Secretariat if we hold next year's session of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva.

The CHAIRMAN: When we have heard all the speakers on the list, I shall call on the Committee Secretary to respond to that question.

Ms. COURTNEY (Australia): I just want to clarify what I said yesterday, apparently arrogantly, about this question of the venue of Legal Subcommittee sessions: whether we should go to Geneva or New York. I must accept the judgement of arrogance since it comes, as the French representative himself said, from a country with some expertise in this area.

When I explained myself yesterday, I pointed out that a number of countries with small delegations have problems with continuity in servicing meetings both in Geneva and in New York. Indeed, if I might point to an example here, we find - even though we are all very grateful to be in Graz - that a number of countries could not attend because this session was held away from New York. It has been our experience that this applies also to Geneva, where a number of small delegations do not in fact have local representation. The same logic that says that every second year a session should be held in Europe would perhaps dictate that every second session be held in Africa or Latin America - or any other continent. That was my point.

In fact, I only expressed a preference. I was not pushing a strong case. This has traditionally been an argument between the United States and France. I think the United States made a proposal this morning which seems to be acceptable to the delegation of France; it is certainly acceptable to my delegation. I would agree with what was just said by the representative of Sweden. I would also be grateful if the Secretariat could clarify what is meant by non-conference-related costs.

Mr. GONZALEZ (Chile) (interpretation from Spanish): My delegation wishes to comment on this matter. First of all, for the past two years we have consistently said that Legal Subcommittee sessions should not coincide with Easter. We reaffirm that view and join with those who have expressed the same position. But we consider that holding the session during a non-holiday period should not shorten that session by even a single day. We believe it is the view of the majority of the developing countries members of the Group of 77 that the length of the Legal Subcommittee's sessions is not up for negotiation.

Secondly, in general terms my delegation is not hostile to holding sessions of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva. A number of sessions have been held in Geneva and there has generally been a good working atmosphere there. Nevertheless, we feel that today's United States proposal that we defer consideration of this matter to 1993 is reasonable; it contains elements that require careful consideration, and my delegation joins other speakers in asking the Secretariat to acquaint us with the additional costs involved in holding meetings away from Headquarters.

Mr. FUJITA (Brazil): My delegation has its own views regarding the question of the venue of sessions of the Subcommittee, but we do not think it would be very useful at the moment to engage in this discussion in view of the fact that there is clearly a lack of consensus. We think the suggestion advanced by the delegation of the United States is worth consideration; it would give us some extra time to think the question over in greater depth with a view to reaching some conclusion at a later stage.

(Mr. Fujita, Brazil)

I should like to refer very briefly to the question of the duration of sessions, which was initially mentioned by the representative of France. I tend to agree with the representative of Chile that duration should be kept as it is for the moment. We should not try to shorten the duration of the sessions of the Committee and its Subcommittees, even through the back-door system of deducting from that duration one supposed holiday. My delegation entirely supports the position expressed by Chile, that we should in no event think of reducing the duration of the session since it is not the number of days or meetings that will improve the working methods or results of the Subcommittee; it is more a matter of substance. What is necessary is that we improve and increase our political will to reach results in the work of the Subcommittee, not just try to find an easy way out by reducing the number of days.

Of course, some delegations might think of establishing some kind of quid pro quo between venue and duration; my delegation would not sympathize greatly with that kind of approach. Since we shall have some extra time to think over the question of venue, we would be prepared to consider that question on its own merits.

Mr. MAIORSKI (Union of Soviet Socialist Republics) (interpretation from Russian): We listened with great interest to the brief but very expressive statement by the representative of the United States. I confess that when listening to the first part of the statement I sensed the Arctic chill of the very recent and all-too-well-known times when the audio system in our conference room was abuzz with accusations of manoeuvring, manipulation to further narrow selfish interests, propaganda and other self-serving ploys. I thought those times were behind us. It would be very sad if I were wrong.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

The representative of the United States is of course free to choose his own mode of expression. After all, each of us presents his arguments at whatever level he can.

For the sake of clarity, I want to repeat that in our statement on the report of the Legal Subcommittee we quoted exactly the verbatim record of the 107th meeting of the Committee, held on 15 December 1971. Our quotation came from the very beginning - the first five lines - of the statement made by the representative of the United States. He then spoke of cost-reductions, which led to the elimination of summary records for the Subcommittee. We did not take the quotation out of context; there was but one context: the outer space Committee convened in December 1971 specifically, in the words of the Chairman, to decide, once and for all, the matter of the venue for the sessions of the Legal Subcommittee.

If we are back to the same item once again, that is at least a sign of our continuity on the issue.

(Mr. Maiorski, USSR)

The Soviet delegation believes that the consensus decision taken in 1971 is still applicable from the legal point of view. That decision was adopted by the Committee, approved by two sessions of the General Assembly and never formally rescinded by the Committee. If we wish to maintain continuity, we must adhere to the decision that we ourselves took. We must take into consideration the atmosphere in the Committee and the efforts made by all delegations to ensure that the spirit of compromise reigns in our work. While we do not reject the suggestion made by the representative of the United States, we would like to have more time to consider it. We do not object to including the relevant wording in the Committee's report, and would like to take the final decision on this issue at the time of adopting that report.

Mr. ZAWELS (Argentina) (interpretation from Spanish): First of all, regarding the venue of the Legal Subcommittee, we are prepared to support the United States proposal that the Committee should study the matter carefully and take a decision in 1993. We also share the concerns expressed by the French delegation, which wanted to clarify the matter of costs. We would advocate a flexible solution, without any conditions attached.

May I now highlight two important aspects of the Committee's methods of work. I should like to share the concern expressed regarding what has become the custom of holding meetings of the Legal Subcommittee during the Easter period, which does not contribute to the efficiency of its work. We would thus urge that no effort be spared to avoid this practice in future. Our other comment concerns the scheduling of the Legal Subcommittee's meetings. In the context of the Special Political Committee, which considers the work of our Committee, there are two other committees, the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations and the Committee on Information. We do not think it would be asking too much of the Secretariat to endeavour to prevent meetings

(Mr. Zawels, Argentina)

of either of our Subcommittees or of the Committee from overlapping with the meetings of those other two Committees. We have already made this request in the two Subcommittees, and we understand that the respective secretariats have agreed to make such an effort. Moreover, we would ask our secretariats to act in coordination with the secretariats of those other bodies.

Finally, we do not wish to comment on the matter of duration for lack of any issue worth comment that has been raised in that regard. However, we would like to reserve our right to return to this question if any such issue is raised.

Mr. BONDE (United Kingdom): I, too, would like to comment on the matter of the venue for the meetings of the Legal Subcommittee and, in doing so, to support in particular the comments of the representatives of Japan, Australia and the United States. The United Kingdom bases its position on two aspects, the first of which is the practical one. The alternation of meetings between New York and Geneva creates a lack of continuity. The United Kingdom, like most Member States, is faced with the choice of its permanent representatives taking two weeks away from New York. This creates difficulties and a loss of continuity in their other work in New York. The alternative is for the Permanent Missions in New York to brief their capitals, with the resultant loss of feel for the issues involved and the continuity.

There is also the question of a lack of base support in Geneva. This problem applies both to the Member States themselves and to the Secretariat, which lose the benefit of the immediate availability of all the backup services and resources located in New York.

Finally, there is the financial aspect. The United Kingdom agrees with the comments expressed that New York is not necessarily cheaper or indeed more convenient for access by experts than Geneva. However, most Member States

(Mr. Bonde, United Kingdom)

cover the proceedings of the Legal Subcommittee from their Permanent Missions when it meets in New York. When the Subcommittee meets in Geneva, those Permanent Missions stay in New York, and extra resources have to be diverted to cover the Subcommittee's proceedings in Geneva. This is undeniably an extra and additional cost, which is perhaps not too much for European countries to bear, and Geneva is perhaps more convenient for access by European experts. However, it is certainly not the case for non-European countries, in particular member countries in Central and South America and in Australasia. There is also a direct loss to the United Nations itself, which must transfer support facilities from New York. The money saved could perhaps be spent more usefully, for example, on implementing the recommendations of the Second United Nations Conference on the Exploration and Peaceful Uses of Outer Space. The United Kingdom delegation believes that, in order to reduce costs and to maximize the efficiency of the Legal Subcommittee, its deliberations should be held in New York on a regular basis. The United Kingdom therefore supports the compromise proposal suggested by the representative of the United States, and urges other Member States to give it similar support.

Ms. REDEKER (Germany): My delegation is very much in favour of the rotation system. To Geneva's credit is not only its well-known spirit, so often referred to, but also the fact that the European headquarters of the United Nations are located there.

As to the point made by the representative of Australia that the Committee does not hold meetings in Africa or Latin America, I should simply like to reply that other United Nations conferences are indeed held in Africa, for example, in Nairobi, where the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) is located. Therefore, in accordance with the idea of equal regional distribution, Genveva represents the European headquarters. The discussion about alternating the venue between Geneva and New York is raised each year, and I do not think it is really fruitful.

The CHAIRMAN: On a point of clarification, I should like to state that there is a second seat of the United Nations in Europe - in Vienna - but that does not in any way interfere with the rotation between Geneva and New York.

Mr. POCAR (Italy) (interpretation from French): As a number of delegations have referred to the matter of the venue for meetings of the Legal Subcommittee, I should like to state our view on the subject.

Italy has consistently been open and flexible on the matter. However, we should like to point out that the practice followed thus far of holding meetings in New York or in Geneva does not appear to have given rise to any serious problems and seems to have been convenient to a number of delegations. That being said, and in view of the requests of several delegations that we should consider the implications of the matter in greater depth so as to be able to assess the situation, we can support the proposal

(Mr. Pocar, Italy)

made by the United States delegation bearing in mind the rider to that proposal made by the French delegation.

The CHAIRMAN: I now call on the Secretary of the Committee to respond to the questions raised by several delegations.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): With regard to the question on non-conference servicing costs for holding meetings of the Legal Subcommittee in Geneva, the figures given was $20,300, which covers the travel costs of the Secretariat servicing the Committee during its last session in Geneva, in 1990. There is a certain inflation factor that will be added to those costs for the 1992 session in Geneva, which is usual United Nations budgetary practice. That factor is somewhere in the range of 4 per cent to 5 per cent.

With regard to the comment of the representative of Argentina concerning the scheduling of the Committees that work in conjunction with the Special Political Committee, we will certainly try our best. Of course, we have already reserved the slots for the Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space and its Subcommittees. As far as I know, this question has been brought to the attention of the Department of Conference Services, the Committee on Information and the Special Committee on Peace-keeping Operations. They are all aware of it, and an attempt is being made to avoid overlap in scheduling such meetings. The Secretariat will see to it that such overlap is avoided, to the extent possible.

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): First, I should like to express my appreciation to the delegation of France, in particular, and to the other delegations that find our proposal to be a reasonable one which could serve as a basis for consensus. While I share the views of the French

(Mr. Hofgard, United States)

delegation concerning the organization of the Committee's future sessions, that is another issue.

I should like to turn to the information just provided to us by the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division. I appreciate that information but am somewhat confused because, while I understand that the last session in Geneva cost some $20,000 more, I was under the impression that a new request had been made concerning the programme budget for the biennium 1992-1993, projecting a cost of $30,000 for non-conference servicing of the Geneva session. Is that correct?

The CHAIRMAN: I call on the Secretary of the Committee.

Mr. JASENTULIYANA (Secretary of the Committee): The total for the last biennium amounted to $28,000, but that figure included other travel, for example, to the inter-agency meeting in Geneva. However, the cost of non-conference servicing for the Legal Subcommittee last year was $20,000. The figure of $30,000 includes the inflation factor added to the amount of $28,000, the latter figure including costs for other travel. The amount for the Legal Subcommittee would be $20,000 plus the inflation factor, for a total of some $21,000.

Mr. HOFGARD (United States of America): Mr. Chairman, I should like, through you, to thank the Chief of the Outer Space Affairs Division for that information.

The meeting rose at 12.50 p.m.